Prevention of outbreaks of fire in Kunnamkulam.

20. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With reference to question No. 387 of the last Legislative Session, will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any step has been taken by the Government except that of keeping a fire engine near the police station to prevent the outbreaks of fire in Kunnamkulam Town; if so,

(b) what are they;

(c) whether the Government have considered the question of keeping another fire engine at a more central place in the town?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) No.

(b) No answer is called for in view of the answer to (a).

(c) Government are considering the question.

Opening of a road from Vettikadavu to Pazhanji.

21. Mr. K. T. Mathew.— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the opening of a road from Vettikadavu to Pazhanji for which allotment was made in the current year's budget has been completed; and if not,

(b) whether it has been taken up for execution; and if so, what portion of it has been executed?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) No.

(b) Yes. A portion of the earthwork has been done.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Member is absent. Why do you call these numbers ?

President.—We have to proceed from question to question.

Opening of a Railway line to Kunnamkulam.

22. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table the report of the Chief Engineer with reference to the enquiry regarding the opening of a Railway line to Kunnamkulam and also the details of his enquiry together with the facts and figures which led him to the conclusion he has arrived at?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Extract from the Chief Engineer's letter C. No. 3471/1104, dated 15th July 1929 is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Opening of a canal east of Vettikadavu.

23. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state, with reference to question No. 93 of the current year Legislative Session, whether the opening of a canal east of Vettikadavu has been taken up for execution and completed; and if not, what has been done in this matter?

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APPENDIX I.

(*Vide answer to question No. 22.*)

Extract from the Chief Engineer's letter.

Railway connection to Kunnamkulam.

As matters now stand the question of a branch railway to Kunnamkulam is to receive attention after the conversion of the Shoranur Cochin Railway to Broad Gauge; vide D. P. Dis., No. 73/R/1102, dated May 11, 1927. If the branch railway is to be constructed on the metre gauge, it may be advantageous to make use of the released metre gauge materials, but under the preseut arrangement, all released materials go to the S. I. Ry., who have allowed credit therefor in the estimate for the conversion project. If therefore any part of the materials has to be diverted, the arrangement has to be revised accordingly and steps taken before the work is put in hand. In the next place, the question of gauge is of primary importance. After the conversion of the Shoranur-Cochin line, it would be undesirable to have a short connecting line on a different gauge. To avoid duplication of rolling stock and the undoubted inconveniences of transhipment, it will be necessary to have the new line constructed on the same gauge as the Shoranur-Cochin line. At Rs. 2 lakhs per mile, the new line would cost Rs. 30 lakhs approximately. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the present trade of Kunnamkulam would warrant the construction of the line at such heavy cost. These are matters to be investigated at a survey, but it seems that a railway to Kunnamkulam may not be paying proposition at least for some years to come. In regard to the question of passenger traffic between Kunnamkulam and Trichur, I may say that bus service has become a serious competitor to railways. It seems, therefore, unwise to count an income from passenger traffic while considering Railway Project.

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APPENDIX II.

(*Vide answer to question No. 28.*)

List of works sanctioned in the Ernakulam Municipality.

Serial No.	Name of work	Estimate No.	Estimate amount Rs.
1	Maintenance of road from Railway Station to toll-gate on the Hill Palace road *via* Cusba Police Station	42/C. W./05	1,605
2	Do do road up to Edappalli toll-gate	69 do	85
3	Do Railway Station—Broadway—Durbar Hall Road	43/C. W./05	1,700
4	Pay of road maistries for roads in Ernakulam	78 do	60
	Total ...		3,450

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